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31 March 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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2. Warsaw Pact communiqué. (*Page t*)



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*Warsaw Pact Meeting: The communiqué issued by the Warsaw Pact meeting in Moscow on 30 March was cast in a moderate tone and confined largely to routine generalities, suggesting that it is intended as a gesture of restraint. The communiqué contains only a passing reference to Laos along with the Congo, Algeria, Angola, and Cuba as examples of areas where the "imperialists" have resorted to "direct military strength" in an effort to check the "growing liberation movement" in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Since the Warsaw Pact meeting appears to have been timed to provide a demonstration of bloc strength and solidarity in the event of any decisions by the SEATO conference to increase military assistance to the Laotian Government, the omission of any warning addressed specifically to the Laotian situation probably is designed to appear responsive to the moderate

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statement on Laos contained in the SEATO communiqué. The Moscow communiqué concludes on a conciliatory note by expressing the bloc's readiness at any time to "support the implementation of the widest measures coordinated with other states" to secure peace and security. The only substantive issue raised by the communiqué is a reaffirmation that a German peace treaty and creation of a free city in West Berlin remain "extremely necessary."

The Chinese Communists were represented by their ambassador to Moscow. This is the first time that observers representing Communist China at a Warsaw Pact meeting were not special high-ranking officials from Peiping. On four of the past five occasions, the Chinese were represented by officials of politburo rank. In addition, the communiqué listed no representative from North Vietnam. It is not clear whether these departures from past practice reflect current policy differences between Moscow and Peiping. 25X1

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munist Gains in Laos and South Vietnam. U. S. I. B. NIE 50-
61. 28 March 1961.**

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